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THE ANNEXATION TREATY.

The virulent criticism to which the

San Francisco Examiner is subjecting

those who oppose the annexation of

Hawaii cannot but make the judicious

grieve. According to that paper the

opponents of annexation are rascals in

the pay of the sugar trust. It brings

the lash down upon public and private

men alike, and the idea never seems to

occur to it that the punishment is out

all proportion to their crime. It may

be a serious matter to hold opinions on

public questions different from those

entertained by the Examiner, but do

the dissenters really deserve to be

executed on that account? Is it not

possible that instead of being a third

"Cat" the Examiner is merely a second

"Theater?"

There is, in fact, plenty of room for a

wide difference of opinion on this ques-

tion of the annexation of Hawaii. It is

the Republican's belief that the ma-

jority of the people in this country view

the proposed acquisition of the Sand-

wich islands with doubt if not with dis-

favor, though many are

reconciled to the coup as a necessity of

the situation. Very many may be de-

sirous, however, to vigorously oppose

annexation to the very last, yet unless

one is possessed of the gift of prophecy

and knows that these people are oppo-

sing a policy that will bring honor,

safety and prosperity to the nation, he

has no right to condemn them in the

sweeping terms employed by the San

Francisco paper.

Many good citizens and honest pa-

trots see in this annexation scheme a

departure from one of the fundamental

principles of this government. They

see in it the inauguration of a policy

foreign to the intention of the founders

of the republic, and which, if persisted

in, will lead ultimately to disaster,

though its immediate results may be

material profit and glory. While these

people are very likely unduly alarmed,

their protests should not be rudely

swep aside, nor should it be attempted

to gag them. There are others who op-

pose annexation because they fear the

unrestricted competition that will ensue

between the cheap labor of the islands

and the labor of this country. While

they acknowledge the commercial ad-

vantages it would bring about, they

doubt if they would outweigh the disad-

vantages caused by the competition re-

ferred to. Still others have their opposi-

tion upon the fact that annexation

would increase the number of uneduca-

ted citizens, which is already too large.

The chief argument in favor of the

treaty is the strategic advantage. It would

give the United States, and it is a very

important one, too. A thorough exami-

nation of the question in its different

bearing would probably result in the

conclusion that this single advantage in

favor of annexation outweighs all the

alleged disadvantages. We shall not

always be at peace with other nations—

who hopes this lives in a fool's para-

dis— and in order to be on something

like an equal footing, as regards naval

operations in the Pacific, with other

great powers, a large coaling station

midway between our western coast and

the eastern coast of Asia is an absolute

necessity. Undoubtedly sooner or

we have such a stopping place for our war

ships, the better it will be for us.

But, whatever the facts of the annexa-

tion treaty, let us at least discuss the

question with fairness and decency.

We are convinced that if the influential

newspapers of the country availed

themselves of the Examiner's style of ar-

gument in favor of the treaty it would

not stand the ghost of a show of being

adopted.

HOSTILITIES OPENED.

L. C. Bateman, of Maine, late Populist

candidate for governor of that state, has

made some charges reflecting upon the

good faith and integrity of W. J. Bryan

which demand and will doubtless re-

ceive an answer from that gentleman.

The charges are of a such nature, being

characterized by the Populist leader as

forgery and bribery, that it goes beyond

the bounds of reason to suppose that

Mr. Bryan will not meet them with a

satisfactory explanation.

The charge of bribery is founded upon

the declaration by Bateman that Bryan's

recent gift of \$1500 to the Populist na-

tional committee was given in consider-

ation of a distinct agreement that no

action was to be taken against fusion by

that party at its next national conven-

tion. It may be said in regard to this

that more evidence than the unap-

proxed charge will be required to con-

vince the public that the late Presiden-

tial candidate has been a party to such

a transaction, but the accusation is now

neither so far-fetched nor so flagrant

as to make it necessary.

The second charge is that Bryan has

added Bateman's name as a signature to

the Populist letter of notification, which

he did not in fact sign. This the Maine

Populist denounces as a political forgery.

Mr. Bryan's answer to these charges

will be awaited with interest, and doubt-

less it will be promptly forthcoming.

There was an excellent business com-

mittee the Bryan committee on ar-

rangements of Fresno sent to the north-

ern valley towns in order to induce

them to help defray the expense of the

special train that is to bring the famous

Nebraska orator to this city. The charge

for the special car is \$225. Stockton has

promised to pay one-third of this amount.

Modesto \$80 and Merced \$50. Modesto,

which is still to be "approached,"

will probably give as much as Modesto.

This would leave a balance of \$10 for

the Fresno Bryanites to pay, and Fres-

no is to have Bryan for seven

hours, while Stockton is to have him

only four hours and the smaller towns

from 30 to 30 minutes. So while the

Nebraska's friends here will have to

pay but a little over nine cents a mile.

WHAT THE EDITORS SAY.

Los Angeles Times: Colonel Pabst of

Milwaukee and Miss Lamp of St. Louis

are going to wed. The result of the mix-

ture of the two well-known brands will

be watched anxiously.

San Francisco Bulletin: Dr. Dillie's

A GRAND SUCCESS.

ute for his society and words of wisdom,

Madero will have to puzzle up at the

rate of \$1 a minute. But why did not

they qualities also visit Herndon, Atch-

lone and Ceres? It might have ob-

ained enough money from them to

make up that balance of \$40, and Fres-

no would then have the satisfaction

of hearing the great leader "free,

gratuitous" for nothing."

The Tulare Register thinks that ex-

President Cleveland should write the

history of his two administrations now,

but should not have it published until

after he is dead, so that his memory,

undisturbed by the jeers of his enemies,

leaves the battlements and watch

over the squatters as they become conscious

of the castigation inflicted by the post-

humous publication. That is a very

pleasant suggestion, indeed, for Grover,

but it is entirely possible that the

numbered multitudes of the great

man's enemies may also be gathered to

that other day that there would never be

another free trade party in this country.

After 1800 the senator will as clearly

understand that there will never be

another free silver party. General Dis-

aster proved the death blow of the free trade

theory. General Prosperity will give

that anyone ever was before, so why

not celebrate that. Give him a chance

anyhow.

Stockton Mail: Post Laureate Anne

tin, in his judicious poem, remarks: "And

now the elixir valis once more." On

the 11th of November Cleveland, as usual, we

had the grand ballroom of the Hotel

Metropoli, filled with the ladies of the

city. Bryan to come down off the stage

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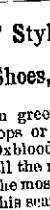
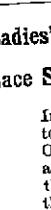
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